



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Randall Wandmacher et al.  
Serial No.: 10/056,569  
Filing Date: January 25, 2002  
Confirmation No.: 8921

Examiner: Daniel L. Greene  
Art Group: 3621  
Docket No. 33836.00.0003

*Preamb 9/B*  
*R. Ellis*  
*12/21/03*  
**RECEIVED**

DEC 18 2003

**GROUP 3600**

**Title: ESTABLISHMENT OF PREFERRED BUSINESS PARTNERS  
USING A VENDOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

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*12-10-03*  
Date

*Christine A. Wright*  
Christine A. Wright

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Advisory Action dated December 1, 2003, Applicants file this Preliminary Amendment along with a Request for Continued Examination:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which beings on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper